



## • INFO memo - August 15, 2003

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### **Ground Broken for Youth/Community Center**

Although plenty of dirt and a lot of brush has already been moved, Friday morning saw a big moment in the history of the City's Parks & Recreation Department when the official ground breaking ceremony was held for a youth/community center at Nienhuis Park.

The first phase of the center will be built through funding from the 2000 bond issue. Following soon will be work on a youth football complex.

Additional phases of the youth/community center could be coming soon if voters approve that part of the Vision 2025 package, which will be on ballots Sept. 9.

On hand for Friday's ceremony were Broken Arrow Mayor Richard Carter, former City Council member Ron Whitaker, Parks & Recreation Director Scott Esmond, Chamber of Commerce President Ted Allison and representatives of the committee of adults and teens who have been helping plan the facility.

Nienhuis Park is located midway between Albany and Omaha, east off of Lynn Lane. The center will be constructed just inside that entrance.

### **Speeders Top List of Ticketed Drivers**

As "first days of schools" go, this one could have been better for city motorists. But it wasn't all that bad, either.

Sgt. Ed Ferguson of the Broken Arrow Police Department reports that officers wrote 80 citations for drivers on Thursday, Aug. 14, the first day of school for Broken Arrow and Union public schools. Of those, 51 were for speeding and 7 for speeding in a school zone.

Ferguson stated that there were two citations for disobeying a traffic device, one for failure to obey a school crossing guard and four for improper lane use/passing. One motorist was cited for failure to use child seat restraint and three others for not using seat belts.

This was the start of "Operation Safe Streets," with the BAPD joining other law enforcement agencies in stepping up their efforts in and around schools and areas where school buses load and unload students.

Motorists should be reminded that although Southside Elementary was closed, it is being used as a facility for a district-wide program. The school zone still applies, with flashing yellow lights on both Elm and Houston.

Ferguson points out that the BAPD efforts in this program are not limited to the adult motorists in the community. A video message is being produced to be played over Tiger TV, stressing the importance of safety for students.

Fines for speeding in school zones range from a minimum of \$140 to more than \$240.

## **Town Hall Meeting Scheduled**

Residents of Broken Arrow are being asked to step forward and be heard Saturday, Sept. 27, in the first planning meeting for a city bond election which will be held next spring.

Citizens will be given the opportunity to provide input in what types of projects need to be included on that bond package. Gary Blackford, Assistant to the City Manager, said the meeting is tentatively set for the Great Room at the newly expanded Broken Arrow Senior Center in The Main Place at 1800 S. Main.

That's a fitting location as funding from the 2000 bond package was used for expansion of the facility, which was recently completed. The Town Hall meetings normally begin about 8:00 a.m. and run through 12 noon.

Ideas from that meeting will then be forwarded to committees which will be working to detail proposals on transportation, public safety and quality of life. Those packages will be presented to the City Council for approval. The bond issue, which should total about \$30 million without raising City taxes, is slated to be held in April of 2004.

## **Centennial Events Winding Down**

It began with a statue dedication, parade and Central Park festival in a day-long rain on Oct. 16, 2002. The Broken Arrow Centennial Celebration will officially come to a close at a Broken Arrow High School football game, it now appears.

John Ayers, chairman of the Centennial Committee, said this week that plans are being made for a grand finale at one of the Tiger football games. There will also be a major event on Oct. 4 as the multi-cultural committee hosts an All-American Festival downtown, complete with the burial of the Centennial Time Capsule. Donna Baldwin of the Chamber and the Centennial Committee said that the festival would "remember the early days of Broken Arrow and the Saturday night street dances." There will be square dancing, country and swing dancing and then a "fast forward" to days of sock hops. At about 8:30 p.m. the event will end with the burial of the Time Capsule in Centennial Park on Main Street.

The City's official Centennial celebration began nearly a year ago. Broken Arrow's "birthday" is celebrated both from October of 1902 and October of 1903, thus the year-long celebration.

The Centennial Statue was dedicated in Centennial Park at Broadway and Main last October. The Time Capsule will be planted nearby Oct. 4 of this year to complete the activities.

There will, however, be some additional Centennial events, mostly centered around the schools. Students will be painting a mural on the south wall of Smitty's Western Wear at Main and Dallas, where crews have already prepared for the painting. Students have also created plays, music and books about Broken Arrow's Centennial.

Granite markers will be placed at historical sites throughout the community during the coming months. And there is still time to order Centennial bricks through the committee. Those bricks, priced at \$100, are being placed on the walk leading up to the statue in Centennial Park. Ayers reports that there are still some Centennial items for sale, such as statue maquettes and glass globes. The Historical Society has been selling the official history book of Broken Arrow's First 100 years.

In between the grand finale and the opening ceremonies was a return of Glory Days to Indian Springs Sports Complex on Independence Day.

### **Bluegrass Jams Returning to Centennial Park**

The Bluegrass Jam sessions which proved a big hit in the spring are coming back to Centennial Park in September.

The programs, featuring local musicians who simply wanted to entertain folks, were tried in June. They'll return on Sept. 4, 11, 18 and 25, starting about 7:00.

There is no admission charge, and there's plenty of room at the park for listeners to sit on benches or lounge around the Centennial Statue. If rains interrupt, there will be no makeup dates set.

In another program made possible by Broken Arrow's Parks & Recreation Department, a Centennial Quilt Show will be held at the Community Center in Central Park on Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. More than 100 quilts have already been registered.

### **Work to Begin Next Week at Oneta-Kenosha**

Intersection improvements are scheduled to begin next week at Kenosha and Oneta Road, said Public Works Director Dave Wooden.

He also reported that crews are putting the final layer of asphalt on the widening project of Aspen between Jasper and the entrance to the Indian Springs Sports Complex. That will give youth sports teams and their fans five lanes through that heavily traveled area.

The intersection improvements at Kenosha and Evans Road have been completed and are in the closeout phase, said Wooden. Also finished is the widening of Elm Place from Florence to the South Loop.